

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim is provided below.

Claims 1-9: Canceled.

10. (New) An isolated strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, which contains 1% by weight or more of γ -glutamylcysteine and contains 0.004-0.1% by weight of glutathione during its logarithmic growth phase in a minimal medium,

wherein the minimal medium contains a nutrient for which said strain is auxotrophic
or

wherein the minimal medium does not contain glutathione.

11. (New) The isolated strain of Claim 10, wherein the minimal medium contains a nutrient for which said strain is auxotrophic.

12. (New) The isolated strain of Claim 11, wherein the nutrient is uracil.

13. (New) The isolated strain of Claim 10, wherein the minimal medium does not contain γ -glutamylcysteine, L-cysteine and cystine.

14. (New) The isolated strain of Claim 10, which contains 1.7% by weight or more of γ -glutamylcysteine during its logarithmic growth phase in a minimal medium.

15. (New) The isolated strain of Claim 10, which contains 0.004-0.01% by weight of γ -glutamylcysteine during its logarithmic growth phase in a minimal medium.

16. (New) A method of producing a yeast extract, comprising culturing the strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* according to Claim 10 in a medium and extracting or digesting the cells of the cultured strain.

17. (New) A method of producing a yeast extract, comprising culturing the strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* according to Claim 11 in a medium and extracting or digesting the cells of the cultured strain.

18. (New) A method of producing a yeast extract, comprising culturing the strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* according to Claim 12 in a medium and extracting or digesting the cells of the cultured strain.

19. (New) A method of producing a yeast extract, comprising culturing the strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* according to Claim 13 in a medium and extracting or digesting the cells of the cultured strain.

20. (New) A method of producing a yeast extract, comprising culturing the strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* according to Claim 14 in a medium and extracting or digesting the cells of the cultured strain.

21. (New) A method of producing a yeast extract, comprising culturing the strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* according to Claim 15 in a medium and extracting or digesting the cells of the cultured strain.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Newly-added Claims 10-21 are supported by the specification at pages 4-27 and original Claims 1-6. No new matter is believed to have been added to the application by the amendments submitted above.